

# NEWS RELEASE

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## **Two Kankakee Men Charged in Separate Cases**

Urbana, IL- Rodger A. Heaton, United States Attorney for the Central District of Illinois, announced that a federal grand jury today charged two Kankakee men with federal offenses in separate, unrelated cases.

In one indictment, Robert L. Brooks, age 31, of 1850 Greenview Avenue, Kankakee, Illinois, is charged under the Project Safe Neighborhoods initiative with possessing a firearm after being convicted of a felony. The indictment alleges Brooks possessed a .45 caliber handgun in Kankakee on or about April 26, 2006. According to the indictment, Brooks allegedly has prior felony convictions, including attempted delivery of a controlled substance in 1998 and obstruction of justice in 1996.

If convicted of the offense, the maximum statutory penalty is 10 years in prison and a fine of up to \$250,000.

In an unrelated indictment, Marco Bell, age 33, of Kankakee, is charged with possession with intent to distribute more than five grams of crack cocaine and more than 10 grams of powder cocaine on or about April 25, 2006, in Kankakee.

If convicted, the statutory penalty for the offense is a minimum five years in prison up to 40 years imprisonment; if a defendant has a prior drug conviction, the statutory penalty is a minimum of 10 years to life imprisonment.

The charges against both defendants are the result of investigations by KAMEG. Assistant U.S. Attorney Richard N. Cox is prosecuting the cases.

Both men are currently in law enforcement custody and will be scheduled for arraignment in U.S. District Court in Urbana at a date to be determined by the U.S. District Clerk.

Members of the public are reminded that an indictment is merely an accusation; the defendants are presumed innocent unless proven guilty.

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